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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 11 October 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Israel's constant provocative declarations and advancement of plans to construct and expand Israeli settlements throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in direct and grave contravention of international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and in blatant defiance of the international community, continue to heighten tensions and to undermine any efforts to salvage the two-State solution on the 1967 lines and the prospects for peace.

In this connection, on 10 October 2017, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office issued a press release announcing its plans to construct 3,736 more settlement units throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. According to the Israeli human rights organization, Peace Now, Israel's latest plans include the building of at least 2,413 settlement units in different stages, including in the heart of Al-Khalil (Hebron) and in the settlement of "Beit El" near Ramallah. Moreover, Peace Now reports that Israel announced the final approval of the new settlements of "Amihai" and "Migron", as well as a new site for 30 so-called "temporary structures" on the Palestinian lands of the village of Al-Khadr, intended as a new settlement for the Israeli settlers from "Nativ Ha'avot".

It is clear that, with each announcement of further Israeli settlement construction, the Government of Israel reveals its true and unlawful intentions, which are to annex and colonize more and more Palestinian land and to persist with its half-century-long foreign occupation. The global consensus continues to be in support of the two-State solution based on the 1967 lines as the only viable solution and the foundation for a just and comprehensive peace. However, as all are aware, this is clearly dependent on the full and immediate cessation and the reversal of all such illegal colonization activities. Israel's provocative and inciteful rhetoric, decisions and actions are totally to the contrary of this global consensus and constitute grave breaches of international law, flagrant violations of the relevant United Nations resolutions and blatant contempt for the international community.

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Faced with this reality, there must be firm condemnation of all such illegal Israeli actions, provocations and incitement and a clear reiteration of the demand for the complete and immediate cessation of settlement activities and all other violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The international community must demand Israel's compliance with international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, and with all relevant resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and be prepared to act to hold it accountable in the light of such continued non-compliance. We recall the obligations stipulated in resolution 2334 (2016), both in terms of the obligations of the occupying Power and those of States and the international community as a whole, to bring an end to this illegal situation, to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are destroying the two-State solution, and to advance a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. The time is way overdue to stop dealing with Israel as a State above the law. No country is above the law, including Israel.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 619 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 September 2017 (A/ES-10/761-S/2017/807) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations